

U.S. Department of the Interior  
Bureau of Land Management  
White River Field Office  
220 E Market St  
Meeker, CO 81641

## CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION

NUMBER: DOI-BLM-CO-110-2011-0048-CX

CASEFILE/PROJECT NUMBER: COC33470

PROJECT NAME: Renewal of Power Line ROW COC33470

LEGAL DESCRIPTION: Sixth Principal Meridian, Colorado  
T. 3 S., R. 97 W.,  
sec. 32, SE $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$ , E $\frac{1}{2}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$ , and SW $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$ ;  
sec. 33, SW $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$ .

APPLICANT: White River Electric Association, Inc. (WREA)

DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED ACTION: WREA has submitted an application requesting renewal of right-of-way (ROW) COC33470 which expires September 09, 2011. ROW COC33470 was issued on September 10, 1981 authorizing an overhead 7.2-kV distribution power line 50 feet wide and 4,275 feet long to serve a stock watering station (Ebler well pump) for the Slash EV grazing allotment. NEPA document CER-017-81-13 for the original power line was signed August 24, 1981.

No new construction is authorized by this action and standard renewal stipulations and applicable terms and conditions of the original grant shall be carried forward.

PLAN CONFORMANCE REVIEW: The proposed action is subject to and has been reviewed for conformance with (43 CFR 1610.5, BLM 1617.3) the following plan:

Name of Plan: White River Record of Decision and Approved Resource Management Plan (ROD/RMP).

Date Approved: July 1, 1997

Decision Number/Page: Page 2-49

Decision Language: "To make public lands available for the siting of public and private facilities through the issuance of applicable land use authorizations, in a manner that provides for reasonable protection of other resource values."

**CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION REVIEW:** The proposed action qualifies as a categorical exclusion under 516 DM 11.9, Number (E-9): *“Renewals and assignments of leases, permits, or rights-of-way where no additional rights are conveyed beyond those granted by the original authorizations.”*

The Proposed Action has been reviewed with the list of extraordinary circumstances described in the table below. This categorical exclusion is appropriate in this situation because there are no extraordinary circumstances potentially having effects that may significantly affect the environment. None of the following extraordinary circumstances in 43 CFR 46.215 apply.

<b>Extraordinary Circumstances</b>	<b>YES</b>	<b>NO</b>
1. Have significant adverse effects on public health and safety.		X
2. Have significant impacts on such natural resources and unique geographic characteristics as historic or cultural resources; park, recreation, or refuge lands; wilderness areas; wild or scenic rivers; national natural landmarks; sole or principal drinking water aquifers; prime farmlands; wetlands, floodplains; national monuments; migratory birds; and other ecologically significant or critical areas.		X
3. Have highly controversial environmental effects or involve unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources.		X
4. Have highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or involve unique or unknown environmental risks.		X
5. Establish a precedent for future action or represent a decision in principle about future actions with potentially significant environmental effects.		X
6. Have a direct relationship to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant environmental effects.		X
7. Have significant impacts on properties listed, or eligible for listing, in the National Register of Historic Places as determined by either the bureau of office.		X
8. Have significant impacts on species listed, or proposed to be listed, on the List of Endangered or Threatened Species, or have adverse effects on designated Critical Habitat for these species.		X
9. Violate a Federal law, or a State, local or tribal law or requirement imposed for the protection of the environment.		X
10. Have a disproportionately high and adverse effect on low income or minority populations		X
11. Limit access to and ceremonial use of Indian sacred sites on Federal lands by Indian religious practitioners or significantly affect the physical integrity of such sacred sites.		X
12. Contribute to the introduction, continued existence, or spread of noxious weeds or non-native invasive species known to occur in the area or actions that may promote the introduction, growth, or expansion of the range of such species.		X

## INTERDISCIPLINARY REVIEW:

The proposed action was presented to, and reviewed by the White River Field Office interdisciplinary team on January 25, 2011. A list of resource specialists who participated in this review is available upon request from the White River Field Office.

## REMARKS:

*Cultural Resources:* The power line is in areas that have been inventoried at the Class III (100% pedestrian) level (Alexander 1980 Compliance Date 6/13/1980, Price 1981 Compliance Date 6/26/1981, Späth 1996 Compliance Date 5/22/1996) with no significant resources identified in the area. The power line right-of-way renewal involves no new ground disturbance and there will be no new impacts to cultural resources. (MRS 1/27/2011)

*Native American Religious Concerns:* No Native American Religious Concerns are known in the area, and none have been noted by Northern Ute tribal authorities. Should recommended inventories or future consultations with Tribal authorities reveal the existence of such sensitive properties, appropriate mitigation and/or protection measures may be undertaken. (MRS 1/27/2011)

*Paleontological Resources:* The power line ROW is located in an area generally mapped as the Uinta Formation (Tweto 1979) which the BLM WRFO has classified as a PFYC 5 formation, meaning it is known to produce scientifically noteworthy fossil resources (Armstrong and Wolny 1989). The renewal of the right-of-way involves no new disturbance to the fossil bearing rock formation and will not adversely impact any fossils. (MRS 1/27/2011)

*Threatened and Endangered Wildlife Species:* There are no wildlife-related issues or concerns associated with the ROW renewal as no additional surface disturbance would be necessary. (LRB 01/26/2011)

*Threatened and Endangered Plant Species:* This ROW renewal is an administrative action only with no additional surface disturbance. Therefore there are no special status plant-related issues or concerns. (MT 2/2/2011)

## REFERENCED CITED:

Alexander, Robert K.

1980 Cultural Resource Inventory of CSG Exploration Company's Well Location 397-32-4 and Related Access road Rio Blanco County, Colorado. Grand River Consultants, Inc., Grand Junction, Colorado. 80-20-03

Armstrong, Harley J. and David G. Wolny

1989 Paleontological Resources of Northwest Colorado: A regional Analysis. Museum of Western Colorado. Grand Junction, Colorado.

Price, Lori E.

- 1981 Ebler Well Powerline Near East Willow Creek, Rio Blanco County, Colorado. Bureau of Land Management, White River Resource area, Meeker, Colorado. 81-10-24

Späth, Carl

- 1996 Chevron USA proposed Trail Ridge Well Location G and Access West of Willow Creek, Rio Blanco County. Metcalf Archaeological Consultants, Inc., Eagle, Colorado. 96-54-09

Tweto, Ogden

- 1979 Geologic Map of Colorado. United States Geologic Survey, Department of the Interior, Reston, Virginia.

MITIGATION: All applicable terms, conditions, and stipulations of the original grant will be carried forward and remain in full force and effect.

1. Any proposal involving surface disturbance, such as replacement, maintenance, or expansion, requires an application to the BLM for analysis and authorization. New stipulations for construction would be applied to projects subject to the regulations and policies existing at the time of authorization.

2. The holder shall monitor all disturbed and reclaimed areas through final abandonment for the presence of invasive, non-native, and/or noxious plant species resulting from the Proposed Action. The applicant will be responsible for eradication of noxious weeds that occur as a result of the Proposed Action.

3. Prior to the abandonment of the lands authorized by this grant, the holder shall contact the Authorized Officer to arrange a joint inspection of the right-of-way. The inspection will be held to agree on an acceptable abandonment and rehabilitation plan. The Authorized Officer must approve the plan in writing prior to the holder commencing any abandonment and/or rehabilitation activities. The plan may include removal of drainage structures or surface material, recontouring, replacement of topsoil, seeding, mulching, etc.

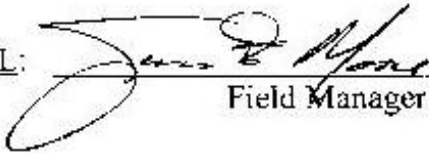
COMPLIANCE PLAN: On-going compliance inspections and monitoring will be conducted by WRFO staff. Specific mitigation developed in the associated Categorical Exclusion and brought forward from the original grant will be followed.

NAME OF PREPARER: Stacey Burke

NAME OF ENVIRONMENTAL COORDINATOR: Heather Sauls

DECISION AND RATIONALE: I have reviewed this CX and have decided to approve the proposed action.

This action is listed in the Department Manual as an action that may be categorically excluded. I have evaluated the action relative to the criteria listed above and have determined that it does not represent an exception and is, therefore, categorically excluded from further environmental analysis.

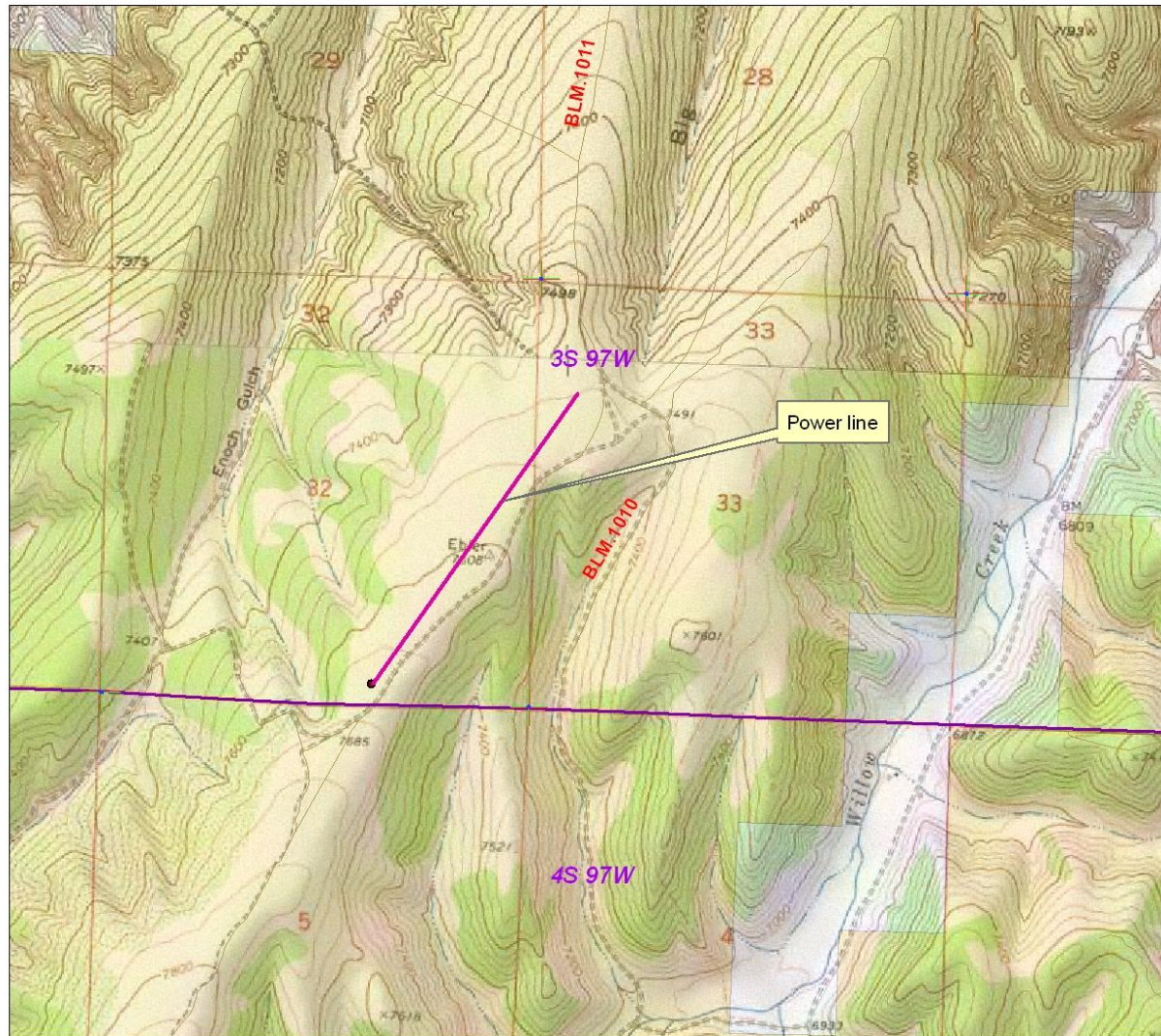
SIGNATURE OF AUTHORIZED OFFICIAL:  \_\_\_\_\_  
Field Manager

DATE SIGNED: 3/18/11

ATTACHMENTS: Exhibit A – Map of Power Line ROW COC33470

# Renewal of Power Line ROW COC33470 T. 3 S., R. 97 W.

## EXHIBIT A



- Blowerwell
- PLSS Townships\_GCD82008
- BLM
- CDW
- County
- FOR
- NPS
- PRI
- STA
- State
- County
- BLM
- USFS
- NPS
- Other



0 600 1,200 2,400 3,600 Feet

Sources:  
BLM, USGS, CDOW, etc.

Disclaimer:  
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January 2011

